Chapter 13: Help Me

THIS SPACE HAS ALWAYS BEEN BOUND TIGHTLY IN YOUR HANDS...

GASP

...BUT YOUR GRASP HAS BEGUN TO SLIP.

ZWW

SHH

SCREEEEECH

IT'S ALMOST TIME...

...SUN-NY-

ZZSH

SPLRT

...YOUR MEMORIES WILL RISE TO THE SURFACE.

EVEN AS YOU TRY TO BURY IT ALL...

YOU MUST...

CLOSE YOUR EYES, SUNNY. LEAVE THIS DREAM...

ドドド

CHOMP

SPLURT

GULP

SQUELCH

SQUELCH

BARACHIS
CHIPOTLE
TADAAA
!!!

OH MAN, THIS REMINDS ME WHEN I WANTED TO BE A CHEF...

LOOK, HERO! SUNNY AND I GOT YOU A GIFT!

PAPACIPE CHEF'S Fighting Low COOK Book

MMN-NGH...

IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE COOKING AGAIN, DON'T FORGET THE INVITE!

THAT MEANS WE DID GOOD, I TAKE IT!

AH... THE MEMORIES...

?

VOO-PHH...

THERE, THERE... SORRY, DID I SPOOK YA?

OH, SHOOT! MY BAD...

SHHH... WE HAVE TO KEEP QUIET.

PHEW... SHE'S COOL AS A CUCUMBER.

LOOKIN' EXTRA CUTE TODAY, PRINCESS!!

NNN-NMM...

YO, SUNNY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU TWO'VE MET, HUH?

R-RIGHT...

KEL, YOU'VE REALLY GOTTA LEARN TO BRING YOUR NATURAL VOLUME LEVEL DOWN.

PRETTY COOL, RIGHT?

MEET SALLY, MY BABY SISTER.

SHE WAS JUST BORN LAST YEAR!

I'M A BIG BROTHER NOW TOO!

AT THIS RATE, I'M BOUND TO BE HER FAVORITE!

YOU BET I HAVE!!

AND HAVE YOU BEEN TREATING HER NICELY AS A BIG BROTHER SHOULD?

HEY, THAT'S SALLY'S FAVORITE PINWHEEL!!

GOO GOO!

BLOW

SHE'S NEVER SHARED HER TOYS WITH ANY-ONE BEFORE.

THAT MAKES YOU SPECIAL, SUNNY.

SALLY MUST REALLY WANT YOU TO HAVE IT.

HAHA! NOW SALLY'S MAKING A WEIRD FACE...WHAT IS IT NOW, PRIN-CESS? YA MAKE A DOOKIE?

DON'T GIVE ME THAT "OOF"!

M-MOM...

OOF!

KEEEEEL !!!

...AND WE BOTH LOST TRACK OF TIME. IT'S BOTH OUR FAULT'S SO-

I ASKED KEL TO HANG OUT WITH ME TODAY...

WE'LL HAVE TO MICRO-WAVE IT ALL AT THIS POINT!!!!

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE ALL LATE FOR DINNER!! THE FOOD'S GONE ICE COLD!!!

IT'S ALRIGHT. RELAX, MOM.

BUT I SUPPOSE THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT... LET'S HAVE DINNER!

OH HERO, YOU'RE ALWAYS TOO SOFT ON KEL. HE NEEDS TO LEARN TO BE RESPONSIBLE ONE DAY TOO...

AWWWW YEEEAHHH!!! DINNER!!!!!

YOU CAN STAY FOR DINNER TOO IF YOU'D LIKE, SUNNY.

WE EVEN BROUGHT HOME YOUR FAVORITE SANDWICHES FROM OTHER-MART BAKERY!

REMEMBER TO CHEW, KEL...

MOM'S HOME-COOKED FOOD IS THE BOMB!!!

YUM-MMERS !!!

SO, HERO... NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK HOME...

BUT THE MICROWAVE RADIATION ENHANC-ES THE FLAVOR!!

IT WOULD'VE TASTED EVEN BETTER IF YOU'D JUST COME HOME ON TIME...

OH! AND TOMOR-ROW...

HOW ABOUT WE GET UP EARLY AND SHOP FOR SOME STEAKS? WE CAN HAVE A BARBECUE AT THE PARK!

HOW ABOUT A NICE WARM BATH FIRST? I CAN GET THE WATER READY FOR YOU...

YOU CAN FINALLY RELAX WITH YOUR FAMILY. I MADE YOUR BED WITH FRESH SHEETS.

I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL THIS, BUT...

YES? WHAT IS IT, HERO?

MOM. DAD.

IT'LL BE JUST LIKE WHEN YOU WERE ALL KIDS-

DO YOU THINK I COULD STAY AT SUNNY'S PLACE TONIGHT?

YOU'VE BEEN AWAY AT UNIVERSITY FOR FOUR YEARS! WHAT ABOUT SPENDING TIME WITH YOUR MOM...?

WHAT? B-BUT...

...WHY?

OF COURSE I WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH MY FAMILY TOO.

SO UNTIL THEN, I WANT TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME TOGETHER AS POSSIBLE.

BUT SUNNY IS MOVING AWAY IN TWO DAYS.

I JUST...

...DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY REGRETS.

I'D LIKE TO MAKE SUNNY'S LAST DAYS HERE AS MEMORABLE AS POSSIBLE.

THIS WON'T MAKE UP FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS, BUT...

HA! IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HEARD YOU ASK THAT.

PLEASE, MOM! CAN WE SLEEP OVER AT SUNNY'S?!

LET'S LEAVE YOUR MEAN OL' BROTHERS ALONE! THEY DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH US, DO THEY?

FINE! COME ON, SALLY.

HMPH...

I THINK IT'S OKAY FOR HERO TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH KEL AND SUNNY TONIGHT.

YOINK

ALLLLL RIIIIIGHT!!!

LET'S GO OVER TO YOUR PLACE RIGHT NOW!

SUNNY.

YOU PACK YOUR BLAN-KETS YET? I WANNA MAKE A BED FORT!

A SLEEPOVER AT YOUR PLACE... DO YOU REMEMBER? WE USED TO DO THAT EVERY WEEKEND.

IT'S GONNA BE... JUST LIKE BEFORE.

...Y-YEAH, OF COURSE!

DON'T FORGET THE TOOTHPASTE! YOU'RE STILL BRUSHING YOUR TEETH EVERY NIGHT, I HOPE?

YIIIPPEEEE!!! I'LL GO GRAB SOME CHIPS AND SALSA!!

MOVING TO THE CITY WOULD DO YOU A LOT OF GOOD...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET OUT OF THAT SMALL TOWN AND COME LIVE WITH ME?

I KEEP TELLING YOU, AUBREY.

BUT DADDY...

MOM... NEEDS ME...

LISTEN, AUBREY.

ALL SHE DOES IS DRINK EVERY DAY... DOESN'T EVEN CLEAN UP AFTER HERSELF.

SHE GAVE UP BEING YOUR MOM A LONG TIME AGO...

THAT WOMAN ISN'T WORTH YOUR TROUBLE.

WHO IS THAT...

...ON THE PHONE?

MOMMA ...!

YOU KNOW THAT WOMAN IS HOPELESS.

I COULDN'T HANDLE HER. GOD KNOWS YOU CAN'T EITHER...

THE DAY I LEFT, SHE CRIED AND CRIED SO SHE COULD KEEP YOU...

...

GRIP

I'M SORRY, AUBREY. I SHOULD HAVE JUST TAKEN YOU WITH ME FROM THE START.

D... DADDY... WAIT...

JUST SO SHE COULD TREAT YOU LIKE TRASH?!

MOMMA... PLEASE-

FLASH

SHATTER

WHY...? WHY ARE YOU STILL CALLING?!

THIS HOUSE IS BROKEN... BECAUSE OF YOU!!!

DRIP

SHUT UP, YOU BASTARD !!!

I'M THE REASON YOU STILL HAVE A HOUSE TO LIVE IN AT ALL!!

...AND ALL WHILE I'VE BEEN COVERING YOUR MISSED BILLS AND PAYMENTS?!

SHIFTING THE BLAME ON ME AGAIN?! THAT'S RICH.

RESPONSIBILITY?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ABANDONED YOUR FAMILY!!!

GET YOUR TEMPER UNDER CONTROL... USELESS WOMAN!!!

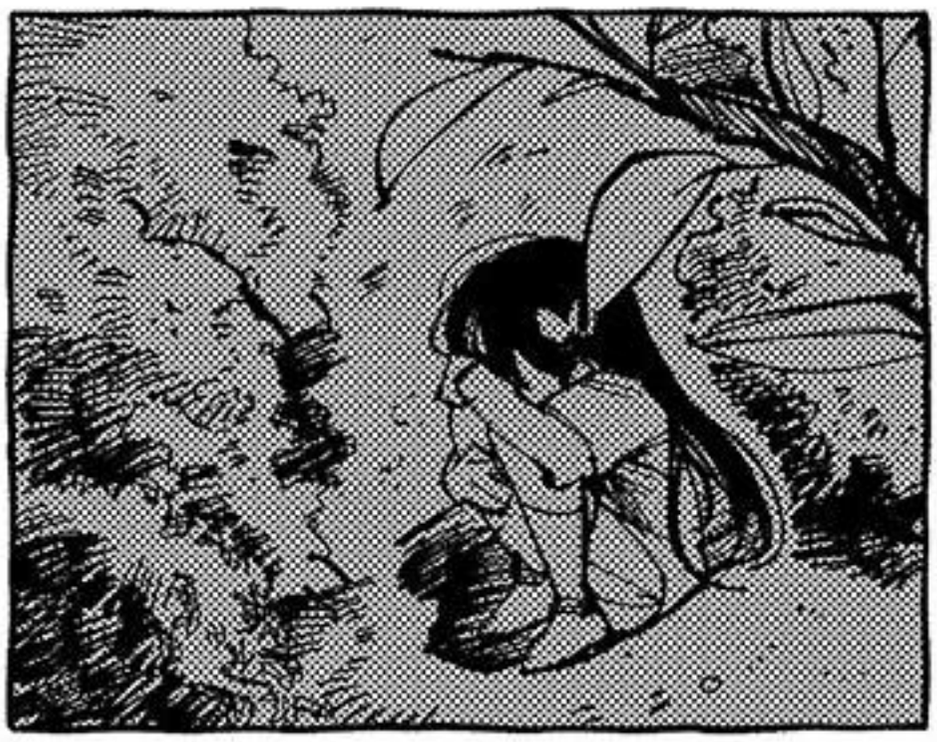
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GET OFF YOUR ASS AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?!?!

DASH

SLAM

KRASH

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



FLUMP

SKKR

THERE...
ALL BETTER.

YOU REALLY
ARE SUCH A
BRAVE GIRL...

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE SAFE WITH ME... I PROMISE.

WHENEVER YOU'RE FEELING SCARED, COME FIND ME, OKAY?

PLPP

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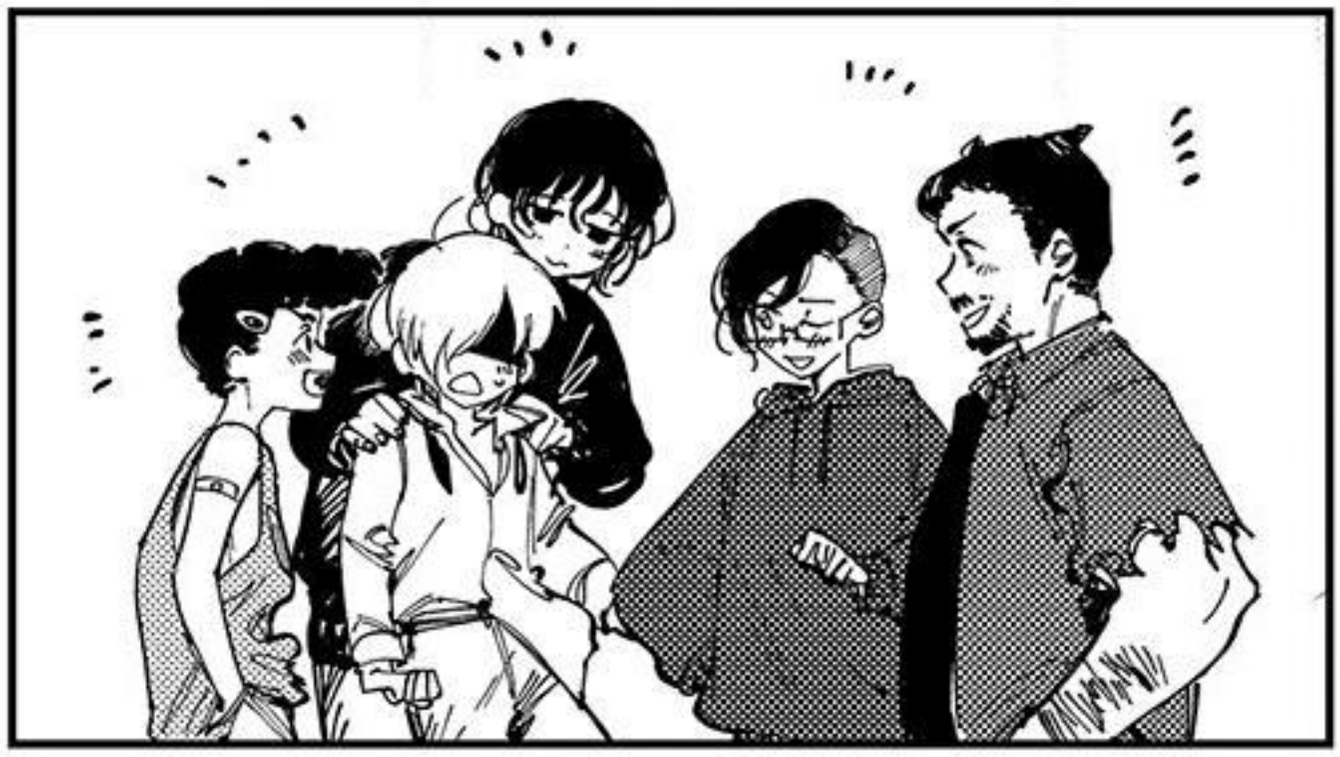

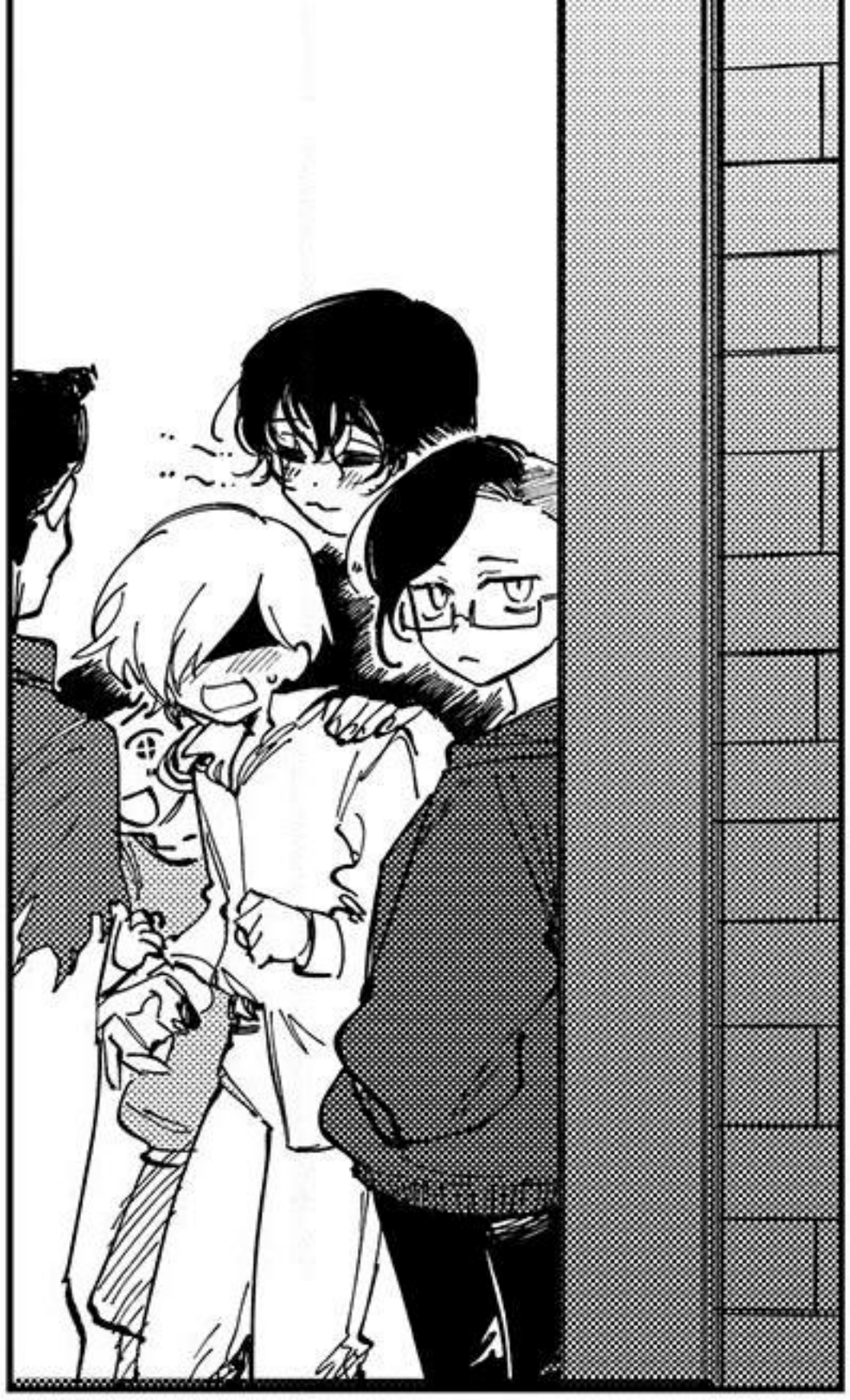

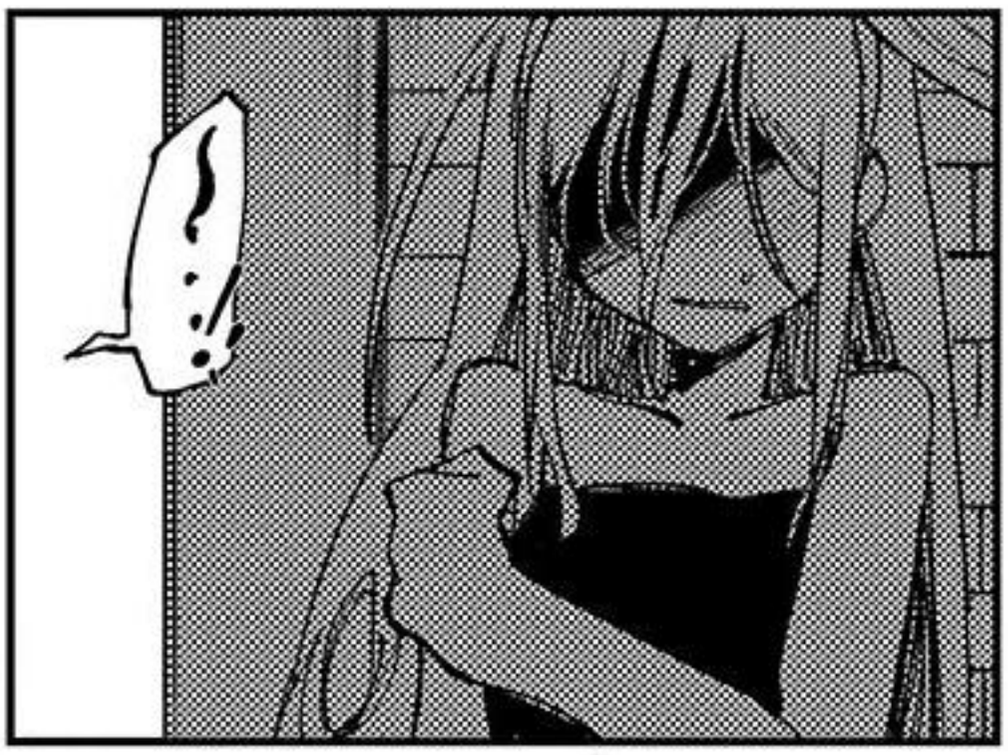

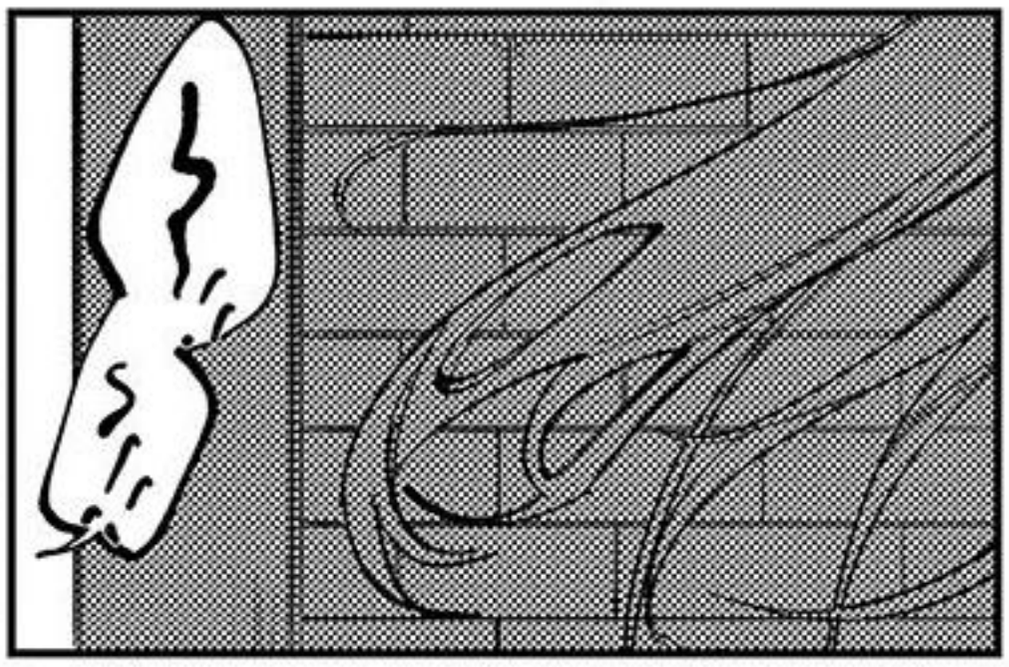

WHATS'A MATTER, SUNNY? CAT IN THE BUSHES?

BY THE WAY... YOU STILL GOT ELECTRICITY? I WANNA PLAY SOME OF OUR OLD GAMES...

CREEEAK

AUBREY'S BEEN AVOIDING US SINCE WE LEFT HER AT THE PARK...

HER FRONT DOOR'S ALWAYS UNLOCKED, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE COME IN ON MY OWN...

...

AUBREY?

SHE'S NOT HERE...

WHAT'S THIS...?

CRAP... SOMETHING'S UP, FOR SURE. SHE NEVER LEAVES HOME WITHOUT THIS THING.

AUBREY LEFT HER JACKET? THAT'S UN-LIKE HER.

HM...? WHAT'S THIS STITCHING?

A FLOWER ...?

AUBREY...

WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GO...?